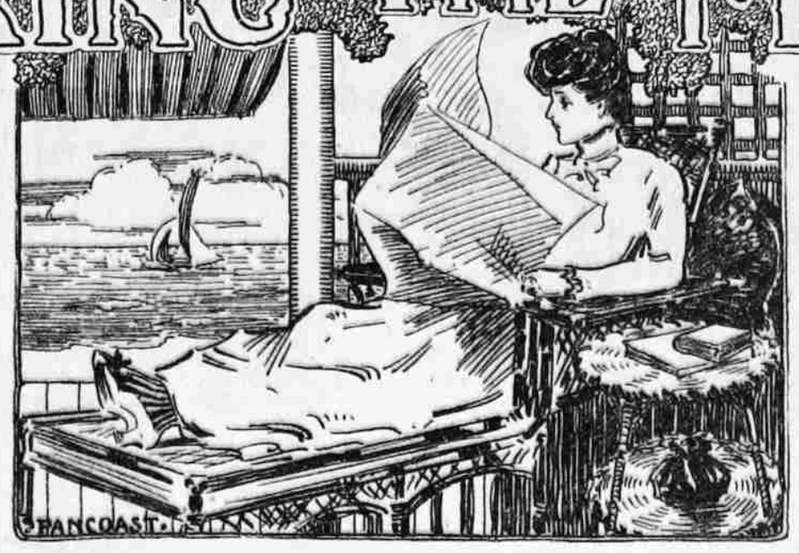
MAKING THE MOST of the PORCH

INCREASING ITS ATTRACTIVENESS BY THE EXPENDITURE OF A LITTLE THOUGHT AND LABOR.



Eleanor Gibson Tait

THERE are porches and porches. There is the porch the dreary spaces of which fill us with dismay as we mount the paintless steps and view the solitary rocker blistering in the heat. There is the porch which is a delight and a rest, with its leafy screen of vineclad trellises, its cool shade, comfortable chairs in sociable proximity, and even, perhaps, a handy little table where one can lay one's "things" before sinking into one of the rockers to rest. And the odd part of it is that the difference is very seldom due to the porch itself; whether it is big or little, long or square, doesn't seem to matter—it is the individuality of the owner which makes all the difference in the world to the porch.

Let's suppose you find yourself with the wrong sort of porch on your hands—the kind with blistered and peeling paint, the only shady corner of which is dreadfully draughty. Suppose the only furniture consists of an ancient rocker, or maybe two, as guiltless of varnish as the porch is of paint. Suppose the porch has a southern exposure and is insufferably hot, or faces north and is exposed to every wind that blows. What's to be done?

There are lots of ways out of the difficulty for the resourceful woman. To begin with, if the paint is really very bad, she should repaint the porch herself, and use the special paint or enamel sold for the purpose, as this kind does not blister in the sun.

After the painting has been attended to, the next thing to be thought of is the "climate" of the porch, if one may so speak. If insufferably hot, the question of vines and trellises must be looked into, and some quick-growing varieties of vines may be procured at very small cost. If there is a man around the house who can put up some laths to form a trellis, so much the better, but if not, "wire cloth" in various sizes of mesh may be bought for comparitively little money. When painted leaf-green, or even the color of the porch, this will be found an excellent substitute for the wooden trellis-work, although the latter is, of course, more artistic. After all, when the vines have grown, it will not matter what kind of supports they have.

HANDLING A NORTHERN EXPOSURE.

But it may be that the porch faces north, and that a chilly draught seems to blow around the east corner. This is a case for a screen—the larger the better. There is nothing very perishable about a screen of weathered oak and dark green burlap, and I have seen these used with good effect. A curtain of striped awning cloth, from ceiling to floor, may also be used with good results, but the screen is the more artistic.

AN AIR OF RESTFULNESS.

Porch furniture comes next. Roomy rockers, low chairs, and at least one round table with a shelf underneath give the porch an air of practical restfulness not to be obtained otherwise. One of the most delightful porches I ever saw had a great double seated green reed swing—like a sofa hung up—suspended at one end. The cords, of course, were fastened to the ceiling, and it took up much less room than a hammock would have done. Prairie grass furniture is peculiarly ed to the porch, and if, in addition to the table, a utility box footstool can be accomme somewhere, the furniture will be complete.

Rugs are very seldom necessary, but there not be too many cushions. The new "T and Thrum" cushions, whose woven cove mind one of the old rag carpet days, are quaint and pretty.

A few "don'ts" in conclusion.

Don't have jardinieres on the floor wait trip the unwary visitor.

Don't have rustic baskets hanging from th ing ready to bump the heads or catch in th of your guests.

Don't have anything on the porch that is ly ornamental without having rhyme or to account for its presence.

Don't have more furniture than can be well dusted, as nothing is more annoying t ruin a frock with dust from one's hostess' chairs.

Most important of all, don't, after having the porch a haven of rest and beauty, wor some vandal may scratch the paint, or dra the sofa cushions. Better a thousand ti turn to the old days of blistered paint an eral dreariness than turn the porch int horror of horrors—a "best parlor."

Life was made to enjoy; so were porches us make the most of both, and, having d enjoy them to the best of our ability.

Pointers About the Gas Range

FOR economy's sake see that the range is provided with one or more small "simmering" burners; to use the ordinary burners for a two hours' stew is sheer waste of gas.

If you are convinced that the gas range is used wastefully and unnecessarily at times when the kitchen fire would do all that is required (supposing that the gas range is merely an extra convenience) have the pipe connecting it with the meter provided with a key, and keep the key under your own eye. This does not mean you are to grudge your servant the use of it—to do so would cause her to leave at once—but she is much less likely to use the gas range to excess if she has to ask for the key each time.

If there is a constant smell of burning when cooking is going on examine the burners—they are probably filled with sediment from "boil overs" of yesterday. This especially applies to the woman who keeps her gas range in the back kitchen, for unless that is an unusually light place, it is difficult to see sufficiently well to keep the burners perfectly clean.

For the woman whose troubles arise from the odor of cooking, the remedy lies in having a small pipe between the range and the chimney to carry off the odorous gases. A large bowl of water placed near will also help to prevent odors of cooking penetrating the house.

The smell of gas when a rubber tube is used (no leak being apparent) is usually caused by the tube itself having become saturated with gas. New tubing is the only remedy.

The lighting of the burners is a very simple matter if properly understood. Turn on the gas for six full seconds before applying the match; this permits the air to escape from the pipe and makes the burner show a clear blue flame from the first. If a white flame appears on first lighting, turn off the gas immediately and try again. The dull roaring sound means the gas flame has leaped back inside the supply pipe.

When having the gas range put in be sure to see that the supply pipe is large enough to allow sufficient gas to enable all the burners to be used at the same time. This is very necessary—it is annoying to discover you can't boil two kettles when the oven is in use. See also that the oven is large and commodious and that there is plenty of room on the top for boiling, frying, etc. It is poor economy to use a gas range that is too small.

These are simple enough remedies certainly, but one can't expect one woman to know everything, and these suggestions may help.

Making Old Things New

A PINCH of salt added to the whites of eggs makes them whip up much better. Mustard is greatly improved by mixing with it a little salad oil.

If an egg is cracked, cover the crack with a paste of flour and water, and the egg will not boil out.

If you do not want the bristles of your new toothbrush to fall out, soak the brush for ten hours before using at all.

If your roll of linoleum has become hard by being kept rolled for a long time, put it near the fire and it will soon become pliable.

Nearly everyone, in replacing saucepans on the shelf, leaves a little of the rim beyond the edge; but few understand that this prevents the pan from rusting.

Keep a bottle of linseed oil and lime water, together with a roll of absorbent cotton and pieces and strips of old linen for bandages, all in a convenient place to use in case of burns.

Never use a metal spoon for stirring stewed fruit of tomatoes. A wooden one is better, and those with short handles are preferable for stirring thick messes.

To remove finger marks on doors rub the marks with a piece of a flannel dipped in paraffin.

Molasses and honey are often adulterated, glucose syrup bleached by sulphoric acid affvored with vanilla being sold for "table syrup;" a little mint and rose making the same syrup into honey." The only safeguard is to select a reliable grocer, and then pay a fair price, paying attention to the labels, and purchasing the same kind again and again, when one hs found honest goods and has learned to know the character of the tradespeople.

A simple method of detecting watered milk is to turn the milk into a deep dish or crock and then thrust a clean knitting-needle into it. If even a small quantity of water has been added the knitting-needle will be clean when it is withdrawn. When the needle is removed from full milk, some of the liquid will hang to it, and when it is rubbed between the fingers it will feel greasy. This test will be found as effective a smore elaborate ones.

Household Squibs

HOW many women adhere to the old fashioned method of marking linen with a new steel pen and marking ink? It is the simplest thing in the world to mark linen with a stencil and a brush. Each member of the family should have his own stencil, which does not cost much if only initials are used. The boy or girl at school will need the full name, which costs more. An entire wardrobe may be marked in half an hour's time by means of stencils, and the danger of the ink spreading is reduce to a minimum.

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A very beguiling nursery planned by a professional lately had the walls covered with a stout, plain green material which was both dust and germ proof. The dado was of a darker shade than the walls above and was bounded at the top by two shelves running all around the room, not too high for the children to keep their books and toys upon. Just under the shelf a frieze of bright hued Mother Goose prints, framed, were set into the wall all the way around as a finish to the dado. These prints had been varnished with white shellac, making them water proof. The floor was covered with a green filling, with a green drugget in the centre. All the woodwork and furniture were white enamel, and there were no curtains or upholstery in the room.

* * *

Should you be so unfortunate as to be poisoned by poison ivy, bathe the affected parts in buttermilk every ten or fifteen minutes until the poison is counteracted. Should the case be a severe one, poultice the blisters with bread and buttermilk poultice, it will give relief very soon and will cure the most severe cases.

Buttermilk will remove mildew from cloth, white or colored. Soak the garment over night, then lay it on the grass in the sunlight. If the stain is set, soak the cloth for two or three days and lay it in the sun.

Buttermilk is excellent for freshening salt pork for frying. Slice the pork and cook over night, or set on the stove and just let it come to a boil, dip in flour and fry.

Ancient Book Collections

IN the United States there are several libraries that have on their shelves more than half a million volumes. The Congressional Library, in Washington, and the New York Public Library have more than a million each. Foreign libraries have even more. The Bibliotheque National, of France, has 3,000,000; the British Museum has 2,000,000; and the Imperial Library, of St. Petersburg, has 1,500,000. Some of these institutions have collections of manuscripts, but nearly all of the volumes mentioned above are products of the printing-press.

But however wonderfully these vast treasuries of knowledge may appear, they sink back into the commonplace when we read of the libraries that were accumulated by the ancients. When we consider that every volume in one of those ancient libraries were carefully written by hand, we are fairly staggered by the fact that the Alexandrian Library, in Egypt, held within its walls no fewer than seven hundred thousand volumes, two centuries before the birth of Christ.

All preceding collections of which we have any record are eclipsed by the Alexandrian Library, founded by Ptolemy Soter, B. C. 290. It was designed by him for the use of an academy of his institution, and was contained in the Bruchion, where were 400,000 volumes; to which Ptolemy Philadelphus added the library in the Serapeum, which was augmented until it numbered 300,000 volumes; making the Alexandrian Library to consist of 700,000 volumes.

The Alexandrian Library was often plundered, but maintained its bulk by new accessions until A. D. 640, when it was barbarously destroyed by the Saracens by order of the Calif Omar.

This noble collection, which had now numbered nine hundred and thirty years since its foundation by Ptolemy Soter, was distributed among the four thousand baths of Alexandria, and supplied them with fuel for six months.

Gay Monaco in Summer

STRANGE to say, the sky and sea are oppressively blue, even though it be August, and the sun is not too vivid, except for three or four lazy hours which attend the noon, after the morning air has ceased to be nimble, and before the salt afternoon breeze has sprung up.

The beneficent, peace-giving olive trees, so softly greenly grey, during your past acquaintance with them, are thickly starred with tiny delicate blossoms, frail and elusive as the flowers of a dream. Cataracts of scarlet tumble over high walls and fling a jeweled spray over hedges—such scarlet as you had seen only trickling in decorous rivulets during the season. Lilies glisten like snow in moonlight; there are weird, unknown plant-wonders to be encountered at every step, strange, flaunting beauties which, even in the South, house themselves underground in winter. The air is heavy with luscious scents, and here and there are rainbow-tinted gleams of butterfly wings and flashes of color, which mean darting dragon-flies or great glittering beetles, backed with close-set rubies and emeralds.

Then, when the sun goes down and the stars gem the night, or the great topaz-yellow moon hangs in a amethyst sky above a deeper amethyst sea, out come the fireflies also, in their thousands, flashing like the sequins on a fan in the restless hand of a woman.

There are mosquitoes, too, but (at Monte Carlo), not "in their thousands." They do not love the rock foundation on which the place is built above the sea; they do not like the breeze and they haunt more lovingly other Riviera towns, where the frogs celebrate their birth with music, in many ponds. At Monte Carlo it is the nightingale which make music at night, after the last number on the program of the Casino concert. Sometimes they make too much, but it is at least a novel experience to be forced to frighten your nightingales into shocked silence with weapons.

Boudoir Gossip

IF the scalp be inclined either t druff or excess of oil, a little juice rubbed into it before the hair is described as benefic

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It is said that to dry the ha rapidly after a shampoo nothing is bette to rub eau de cologne or pure spirits of wi the scalp, and then brush or shake th about in the air.

* * *

The use of cornmeal bags in the bath good for the skin. Use thin cloth and fi two-thirds full of bran, oatmeal, or cor bits of toilet soap, and a small quantity dered orris root.

* * *

An excellent lotion for bunions, to be with a camel's hair pencil every day, is of two drams of glycerin, two drams of acid, and two drams of tincture of iodine der feet simply ruin a person's sweet disp but I think you will find bathing them night in warm salt water and changing stockings every morning will help this tion. Or they may be bathed in camp oil.

* * *

This exercise will reduce the size of th It is said to be excellent: Lie extended floor, supporting yourself by one hand, wh other is placed upon the hip. While holdi position raise the body gradually from th until the whole weight is supported by th and feet. It is comparatively easy to body from the floor as far as the knees, bring it up to the full extent just describe easy at first. It should be tried first on and then on the other.

* * *

To prevent falling tresses have the your hair singed or trimmed carefully, g thorough shampooing and commence tre with the following tonic, rubbing it well scalp with the tips of the fingers wit wheel-like movements: Tincture of nux one ounce; spirits of rosemary, two ounce hol, two ounces. Apply several times to the roots of the hair.

* * *

A good curling fluid is made of three te fuls of quince seeds to a pint of hot water the water over the seeds, allowing the to stand for several hours. This mucila be thinned with water or cologne, and drops of violet or any other essence may ed. Use about two tablespoonfuls of colo this mixture. You may moisten the ha this fluid before curling.

Feminine Facts

Drunkenness is rare, smoking common, among Japanese women.

A woman's brain declines in weight after the age of 30.

Grecian women had very long feet.

Hottentot women cut off a finger joint when they remarry.

Ellen Terry is passionately fond of cats.

Brides in Australia are pelted with rose leaves.

In Africa wives are sold for two packets of hairpins.

By a Mere Man

THAT is the reason that dressmaking—so essentially a woman's work—is better done by a man than a woman? All the best dressmakers, both here and abroad, are men, and ladies' tailors are getting more popular than ever.

A well-known ladies tailor—one long established in the West End of London—explains the phenomenon in this way:

"I have never yet," he says, "been able to find a woman who would recognize the difference between the sixteenth and the eighth of an inch. You cannot make a woman understand that a variation so minute makes all the difference between a fit which is excellent and another which is merely very good."

A similar reason explains why women are unreliable as physicians, surgeons, mechanics, and so on. They will not trouble to measure out just so many grains of a drug, to cut just so deep when performing an operation, or to adjust delicate machinery to the hundredth part of an inch.

Woman and Her Ways

"Why do girls and billiard balls seem alike to you?"

"Well, they kiss each other with about the same amount of emotion."

Pretty Daughter—"Mamma, did you hear what George said to me last night?"

Anxious Mother—"No, dear, but I hope it was apropos."

Pretty Daughter—"It was more than that. It was a-propo-sal."

Talks With Housekeepers

WHEN your sheets become worn near the centre sew the outer edges together and open in the centre.

For a burn, mix sweet oil and lime-water (equal parts) and keep the burn well covered with it. Scraped potatoes have long been used as a soothing application for burns.

If you upset hot fat on the kitchen table or floor, pour cold water over it at once. This cools the fat and prevents it from spreading and sinking into the wood. To remove the greasy spots, scrub thoroughly with hot soda, water and sand.

Rust may be removed from nickel plating by covering the spots with mutton tallow and letting it stand for several days. If this treatment is followed by a rubbing with powdered rottenstone and then by a thorough washing with strong ammonia, succeeded by clear water, and a final polishing with dry whiting, stubborn cases will yield.

To make celery salad, take one teacupful of chopped celery, one medium size tart apple chopped fine, one teaspoonful of horseradish, one teaspoonful of ground mustard, one tablespoonful of brown sugar and one tablespoonful of olive oil. Mix the celery and apple together and let it stand before adding the other ingredients. Stir the horseradish, mustard, sugar and olive oil to a smooth paste and add to the celery and apple. Although this salad is intended to be eaten as soon as made, it will remain for some time in good condition if kept in a cool place.

A good furniture polish which will remove white spots from varnished and oiled woods and restore dulled surfaces to their original gloss, is made as follows: One cupful of cold drawn linseed oil, one cupful of powdered rottenstone, one-half cupful of alcohol, one cupful of naphtha, one cupful of turpentine, one cupful of a strong solution of oxalic acid, and one cupful of cold water with which has been slowly mixed two teaspoonfuls of sulphuric acid. Shake the ingredients together and keep bottled and closely corked until it is wanted. Apply the preparation with a flannel cloth and rub vigorously.

Grease spots, if old, may be removed from books by applying a solution of caustic potash upon the back of the leaf. The printing, somewhat faded after the removal of the spot, may be freshened by the application of a mixture of one part of muriatic acid and twenty-five parts of water. In a case of fresh grease spots, carbonate of potash (one part to thirty parts of water), chloroform, ether or benzine renders good service. Wax disappears if, after being saturated with benzine or turpentine, it is covered with folded blotting-paper, and a hot flatiron is put upon it. Paraffin is removed by boiling water or hot spirits. Ink spots or rust yield to oxalic acid, in combination with hot water; chloride of gold or silver spots to a weak solution of corrosive sublimate of cyanide or potassium.

A VIRTUE or a VICE?

A Little Discourse on the Subject of Vanity

By Phoebe Forrest

THE other morning, as I clung to a strap in a crowded car, I stood in front of two girls who were apparently on their way to the office. One of them was very pretty, with a smooth complexion and bright eyes; the other, apparently used as a foil by her companion, was pale and hollow-checked, with hair that hung around her face in long strands.

The pretty girl kept her hair from stringing by means of a fascinating veil, and the rest of her attire, while it bore out the air of neatness suggested by the veil, was nevertheless far too dressy to wear to an office.

She had on a white silk waist, with short sleeves and long black gloves, a black cloth skirt, a neatly fitting girdle, and black sailor ties, which permitted a glimpse of fancy hosiery.

She was very pretty and very good to look at, and what was more, she knew it.

She also knew how well she showed off by contrast with her companion, and all the way down town she was engaged in attempting to impress these superior qualities of hers upon her fellow-passengers.

She talked incessantly about all her private affairs in a tone of voice as unrestrained as if she had been in the privacy of her own room. The main theme of her discourse was "Dick," and long before she got off, everybody in the car was well acquainted with "Dick" and knew that he worked at the same place she did.

She had very pretty teeth, so she laughed every now and then—as people do at an afternoon tea—at nothing at all. She also made various gestures in order that her fellow-passengers might get the full effect of her long gloves.

The other girl had a tired look in her eyes and the corners of her mouth drooped. She listened to all her companion had to say, but she said very little herself, offering only a few monosyllables now and then in a low tone, so as to punctuate the other's discourse.

She never smiled, either, but returned an almost unchanged expression to her companion's animated countenance, speaking eyes and frequent laughter.

It seemed as if she knew that her friend was "showing off" for the benefit of the other people in the car, but was nevertheless so accustomed to her vanity that she looked upon it indulgently, as one would the faults of an irresponsible child.

A DESIRABLE VEIN OF VANITY.

The vanity in itself was not harmful; in fact, it is a woman's duty to be a little vain, in order that she may have sufficient self respect to dress herself neatly and becomingly. But it is also the part of wisdom to keep the existence of this vanity a secret, for its advantages (and they are many) are not generally recognized.

People condemn a woman who is vain, but if she is pretty they will generally admit that she has an excuse. I say, generally, for there are times when her vanity and her beauty together cause her to lose the good will of her friends. If she has a friend who is also pretty, this friend is not apt to want her around too often, for fear she may spoil her operations. This other girl knows that the beauty in itself is a danger, but that the vanity offers too many temptations to make it safe to encourage visits.

The vanity also causes her to think too much of herself and too little of others. The result is that she is selfish and bad tempered when her desires are crossed.

She has spent so much time in looking in the glass that she has come to think that everything and everybody must, as a matter of course, give way to such beauty as hers. She is entirely self-centred and extremely self-conscious.

For these reasons a vain woman is generally condemned, but if she has the tact to keep people guessing the extent of her vanity, then what might have been a vice becomes really a virtue.

Vanity is that which makes a girl of sixteen put a large pink ribbon in her hair, and an old lady put some soft white lace around her neck and wrists.

It is really that which constitutes a woman's greatest charm, if kept, of course, within proper bounds. Without it a pretty woman would still be pretty, but with it, she becomes beautiful, for a careful study of her mirror has taught her wisdom.

She has learned what colors are best suited to her complexion, what mode of dressing her hair is most becoming, and a thousand important matters which, without vanity, she could never have learned.

She has discovered, for instance, that if her face is round she should not wear her hair too much puffed at the sides; that if she is tall she should wear it up; and if she is short, she should fix it low, at the back of her neck. She had learned that if she has not much color she should wear pink, and never red or yellow, and that, as much as possible, she should have her gowns to match her eyes.

NATURE IMPROVED UPON.

I once knew a woman, who, attired in a kimono, was extremely pretty, but who, dressed and ready for the street, was the most beautiful woman I had ever seen. Long practice and study had taught her how to improve upon nature.

Even an ugly woman can improve her appearance by means of a little vanity and a fixed desire to become good looking. She can look into the hygiene of beauty a little bit and discover that plenty of sleep, cold plunges, brisk walks in the morning and abstinence from tea, coffee and sweets, are conducive to a good complexion; and if she has a good complexion, the battle is half won.

As a woman's chief function is considered to be largely decorative, she should endeavor to live up to it and to make herself as charming as possible. Other people will certainly like her better if she gets herself up becomingly, and with a woman it is a primary object of life to make herself liked. She certainly feels herself in better health, mentally and physically, if she knows that people like her.

Up to a certain point, then, vanity is a virtue; beyond that point is becomes a vice.

In the case of the girl in the car it had degenerated into a vice, and had, in fact, become a passion. She thirsted after admiration as a man does for strong drink, and she was willing to go to any lengths to obtain it.

She was totally unconscious of the fact that her behavior was ill-bred, or that her loud conversation was annoying to her fellow-passengers. She did not realize that, instead of admiring her, they were looking upon her with contempt.

She was so intoxicated with her own undeniable good looks, that she thought everybody else must either also be intoxicated with them or must become so at once. She looked upon herself as the centre of attraction, and would have considered a suggestion that other people did not think so as the height of absurdity.

Moreover, her vanity had so overcome her common sense that she had lost all conception of fitting her dress to the occasion. She was determined to wear her prettiest clothes all the time, no matter how out of place they might be, and was now going to work attired as if for a matinee.

Her vanity, instead of being useful to her, had become a real detriment, for she did not understand that it was as much a part of the privacy of her own room as her powder puff, her box of cold cream, or any other accessory of her toilet.

Disaster in the Dust Rag

IT has been said—we know not wit much truth—that of all things th rag is most sacred to wo heart, says a writer in the Ba Sun. It is the flag under whi prefers to march, defending it utmost against the skeptical jibes of men

Much has been said of her propensity to her person, to emphasize the charm of he by varied textures and colors. The spri the winter hat, the fall hat—to say noth the bewitching summer girl's hat—have supposed to appeal most strongly to woman

Tinted parasols have their claims. W trousseaux attract much attention, and ladi been known to go miles to see the lingeri prospective bride.

But, after all, for a constant passion, from sweet sixteen to sixty, nothing, it is s really competes with the dust rag.

Even the feather duster, which but scatte dust and bacteria, is inferior in popularity rag which gathers up and retains the accum particles of dirt.

Every woman cherishes this treasure, ob of the fact that the longer she keeps it the billions of disease germs it contains. She not realize that every time she flourishes t lions of microbes are imparted to the a breathes, subjecting her to increased risk of culosis, diphtheria, pneumonia, tetanus, an like.

It is vain for the mere man to observe industrious duster that the dust lying o bric-a-brac, wardrobe, or clock is harmless it lies there, or that the proper thing to do remove it by gathering it up quietly with a cloth, moistened with a germicide solutio stead of stirring it up and scattering it with the beloved rag.

No, dusting is dusting. Countless gener of women have dusted just that way, and the only way. Let man attend to his own ness and quit giving undesired advice.

Yet the matter has its serious side. is impaired by the prevailing method. as a rule less resistant to disease germs men who lead active out-of-door lives, wom often the first victims of the bacteria the up with the duster.

Their ability to resist disease is further paired by the physical exhaustion incident enormous labor involved in dusting the a room, and the contents thereof.

The conscientious housekeeper frequently brates the close of the housecleaning day ing to bed for a spell of sickness. She th the righteous sensation of having done h duty. She has done it to the best of her k edge, but the bacteriologist knows that s filled her throat and lungs with billions crobes not a few of which are morbific and would be better on the top of the wardro mantel.